



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 21, 2003

### **H.R. 958**

### **Hydrographic Services Amendments of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 958 would make several amendments to the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998. Specifically, the bill would:

- Direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish, equip, and maintain up to 10 regional navigation response teams;
- Authorize the appropriation of \$60 million for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006 to acquire fishery survey vessels; and
- Authorize NOAA to acquire a hydrographic survey vessel, and authorize the appropriation of \$1 million in 2004 for the preparation of an acquisition plan.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$316 million over the 2004-2008 period and \$25 million a year thereafter. Enacting H.R. 958 would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 958 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Navigation Response Teams					
Estimated Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	4	5	5	5	5
Acquisition of Fishery Survey Vessels					
Authorization Level	60	60	60	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2	30	75	55	20
Planning and Acquisition of Hydrographic Survey Vessel					
Estimated Authorization Level	1	110	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	30	35	35	9
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	66	175	65	5	5
Estimated Outlays	7	65	115	95	34

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized or estimated to be necessary to carry out H.R. 958 will be appropriated for each fiscal year. The authorization levels not specified by the bill are estimated on the basis of information provided by NOAA and other federal agencies. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the acquisition programs and other affected activities.

For each year, the authorization levels include an estimated \$5 million to establish, equip, and operate 10 navigational response teams. The teams would conduct navigational safety projects and validate hydrographic data. Through fiscal year 2006, the annual authorization levels also include \$60 million that would be specifically authorized by the bill for acquiring fishery survey vessels. Finally, the authorization levels in the table reflect the estimated costs of acquiring one hydrographic survey vessel: \$1 million specifically authorized for 2004 for the required vessel acquisition plan; and \$110 million in 2005 for the estimated cost of purchasing the new ship.

In addition to the amounts shown in the table and also assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that NOAA would spend about \$25 million a year after 2008. Of this amount, we estimate that about \$5 million would be used to continue operating

the navigation response teams. The remaining funds would be used to operate the fishery and hydrographic survey vessels to be acquired under the bill.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 958 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis